

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IT

SUBJ: MAJOR MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY

SUMMARY: INTERNAL ROW ON L'ESPRESSO RAISES FEARS ABOUT PRO-PCI
EDITORIAL SHIFT.

1. A TYPICALLY CONVOLUTED ROW AMONG THE EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS
OF ITALY'S LEADING POLITICAL COMMENTARY MAGAZINE, THE SOCIAL-
IST ORIENTED L'ESPRESSO, HAS RAISED FEARS THAT THE INFLUENTIAL MAG-
AZINE MAY DEVELOP A PRO-PCI SHIFT.

2. LINO JANNUZZI, THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS EDITOR AND A
PSI STALWART, WAS SUSPENDED BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD LAST JULY
BECAUSE OF HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH MICHELE SINDONA, ITALIAN
FINANCIER NOW UNDER POSSIBLE INDICTMENT AND EXTRADITION PRO-
CEEDINGS IN NEW YORK. DETAILS OF JANNUZZI'S REPORTEDLY IMMORAL
PRIVATE LIFE ADDED FUEL TO THE FIRE.

3. CLAIMING THAT THE SUSPENSION WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BY
THOSE FAVORING THE COMPROMESSO STORICO, JANNUZZI TOOK THE MATTER
TO COURT AND HAD THE SUSPENSION LIFTED. THE BOARD REACTED BY
FIRING JANNUZZI AND NAMING IN HIS PLACE GIANCESARE FLESCA, A
PCI MILITANT AND A FORMER EDITOR OF PAESE SERA. THIS CAUSED ONE
OF THE MAGAZINE'S FOUNDERS, CARLO GREGORETTI, TO RESIGN WITHOUT
EXPLANATION. IT WAS NEVERTHELESS WIDELY SPECULATED THAT HIS ACTION
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WAS TRIGGERED BY THE REPLACEMENT OF A PSI MAN BY A PCI HARD-

LINER IN THE CRUCIAL DOMESTIC AFFAIRS SLOT, THEREBY PAVING THE WAY FOR THE MAGAZINE TO TAKE A STAND MORE IN FAVOR OF THE COMPROMESSO STORICO.

4. AT THE MOMENT, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THE EDITORIAL BOARD HAS SPLIT INTO TWO FACTIONS, WITH PCI AND PSI LEFT WINGERS ON ONE SIDE, AND PSI MAINSTREAM AND ASSORTED RADICALS ON THE OTHER. L'ESPRESSO SOURCES HAVE HOTLY DENIED THAT THEIR "FAMILY FEUD" IS DUE TO STRUGGLES OVER EDITORIAL POLICY, BUT THAT IS WHAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD BELIEVES.

5. L'ESPRESSO'S PLIGHT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY A MICROCOSMIC REFLECTION OF ITALY'S CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. FOR THE MOMENT, THE PCI MINORITY APPEARS TO HAVE GAINED GROUND WITH FLESCA'S APPOINTMENT, ALTHOUGH ANY EDITORIAL LINE CHANGES HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO BE MANIFESTED.
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